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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

(*item 3*)

Progress report on the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

1. At its tenth meeting, on 18 June 2001, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (A/56/82). The report of the Secretary-General was introduced by the Director of the Management Policy Office of the Department of Management, who also responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. He informed the Committee that the report of the Secretary-General would be reissued for technical reasons.

Discussion

2. Concern was expressed that the report of the Secretary-General reflected a number of measures being taken in four main areas — human resources management, budget-related issues, simplification of processes, and delegation of authority and accountability — rather than an assessment of the results of such measures across a broader range of topics, including, inter alia, those for renewal and reform of the Organization. Future reports should be more detailed and indicate explicitly the way in which efficiency had been improved.

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3. A view was expressed that questioned the manner in which the Committee for Programme and Coordination should proceed with its review of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. In that regard, it was noted that the substantive debate on many issues pertinent to the matter had taken or was taking place in a variety of intergovernmental bodies.

4. A view was expressed that, in accordance with the existing Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, each programme approved by the General Assembly should be subject to a regular evaluation that, among other things, assessed the continuing relevance and effectiveness of the programme.

5. A view was also expressed that each proposed programme should include a specific termination date so that the programme would not be renewed unless the evaluation demonstrated the continuing relevance and effectiveness of the programme.

6. Views were expressed on the need for an analytical assessment of the impact and value added of the measures taken to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

7. Concern was expressed about the result of efficiency measures related to the use of consultants, outsourcing of translation services and the simultaneous availability of official documentation in electronic form in the six official languages on the United Nations web site.

Conclusion and recommendation

8. The Committee noted the report of the Secretary-General concerning the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (A/56/82).